

21. (Thrice Amended) A disk drive comprising:
- a recording medium adapted to be rotated at a given velocity;
 - a flexure;
 - a slider coupled to said flexure and adapted to fly above said recording medium when rotated, the slider including
 - a slider body;
 - first and second rails extending in a longitudinal direction along the slider body where leading edges of said rails are spaced from a leading edge of the slider body;
 - a first structure having a first depth and extending from said leading edge of the body to the leading edges of the first and second rails and between the first and second rails;
 - a second structure having a second depth disposed adjacent to said first structure and between said first and second rails, said second depth being lower than said first depth; and
 - wherein said second structure begins more than one-third of the length of the slider body from the leading edge of the slider body.

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 1-5, 11-15, and 21-25 were rejected as failing to distinctly claim the invention under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 11, and 21 have been amended to correct a perceived antecedent problem with the term, "a leading edge".

Based on the amendments above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of

claims 1-5, 11-15, and 21-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Wada et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,144,529 (hereinafter “Wada”). These rejections are traversed, in part, because the cited reference fails to teach or suggest a slider comprising: a slider body; first and second rails extending in a longitudinal direction along the slider body where leading edges of said rails are spaced from a leading edge of the slider body; a first structure having a first depth and extending from said leading edge of the body to the leading edges of the first and second rails and between the first and second rails; a second structure having a second depth disposed adjacent to said first structure and between said first and second rails, said second depth being lower than said first depth; and wherein said second structure *begins* more than *one-third of the length* of the slider body from the leading edge of the slider body. (As Amended).

In regard to independent claims 1,6,11,16,21, and 26, Examiner refers to figure 39 in stating that Wada provides a second structure having a second depth disposed adjacent to said first structure and between said first and second rails, said second depth being lower than said first depth; and wherein said second structure *begins* more than *one-third of the length* of the slider body from the leading edge of the slider body. Applicant respectfully submits that the second structure of Wada (first negative pressure generating portion 130, as defined by Examiner) does not begin more than one-third of the length of the slider body from the leading edge of the slider body, as can be seen from figure 39. The pointed tip at the leading portion of the second structure 130 does not begin more than one-third of the length of the slider body from the leading edge. Actually, none of the entire leading portion of the second structure is more than one-third of the length of the slider body from the leading edge of the slider body. Applicant respectfully submits that neither figure 39, nor any other figures, nor

any portion of the text of Wada teach or suggest a second structure having a second depth disposed adjacent to said first structure and between said first and second rails, said second depth being lower than said first depth; and wherein said second structure *begins* more than *one-third of the length* of the slider body from the leading edge of the slider body.

Applicant respectfully submits, therefore, that claims 2-5,7-10,12-15,17-20,22-25, and 27-30 are allowable as depending from allowable base claims.

Based on the arguments above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-30 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

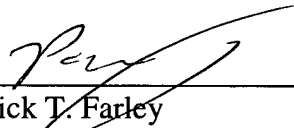
For all the above reasons, the Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (408) 975-7500 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,
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By: _____


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Version with markings to show changes made (“Marked-Up” Version):

Claims (Marked-Up):

A “**marked-up**” version of each claim follows:

1. (Thrice Amended) A slider comprising:

a slider body;

first and second rails extending in a longitudinal direction along the slider body where leading edges of said rails are spaced from a leading edge of the slider body;

a first structure having a first depth and extending from said a leading edge of the body to the leading edges of the first and second rails and between the first and second rails;

a second structure having a second depth disposed adjacent to said first structure and between said first and second rails, said second depth being lower than said first depth; and wherein said second structure begins more than one-third of the length of the slider body from the leading edge of the slider body.

11. (Thrice Amended) A head suspension assembly comprising:

a flexure; and

a slider coupled to said flexure, said slider including

a slider body;

first and second rails extending in a longitudinal direction along the slider body where leading edges of said rails are spaced from a leading edge of the slider body;

a first structure having a first depth and extending from said a leading edge of the body to the leading edges of the first and second rails and between the first and second rails;

a second structure having a second depth disposed adjacent to said first structure and between said first and second rails, said second depth being lower than said first depth; and wherein said second structure begins more than one-third of the length of the slider body from the leading edge of the slider body.

21. (Thrice Amended) A disk drive comprising:

a recording medium adapted to be rotated at a given velocity;

a flexure;

a slider coupled to said flexure and adapted to fly above said recording medium when rotated, the slider including

a slider body;

first and second rails extending in a longitudinal direction along the slider body where leading edges of said rails are spaced from a leading edge of the slider body;

a first structure having a first depth and extending from said a leading edge of the body to the leading edges of the first and second rails and between the first and second rails;

a second structure having a second depth disposed adjacent to said first structure and between said first and second rails, said second depth being lower than said first depth; and wherein said second structure begins more than one-third of the length of the slider body from the leading edge of the slider body.